



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

April 27, 2016

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with great enthusiasm and confidence that the YMCA of the Inland Northwest offer this letter of support for the City of Spokane's quest for a regional playground in Riverfront Park.

Our YMCA enjoys a great collaborative relationship with the City's Parks and Recreation Department and more specifically Riverfront Park as a recreation resource. Over fifty days of our summer day camp season, multiple groups of children (ages 6 – 14) visit Riverfront and our Early Learning Center children (6 weeks to age 5) utilize the park regularly throughout the year.

While the park setting is a wonderful resource its playground is simply inadequate. The existing playground is limited in size, lacks age appropriate features and is marginally safe for younger children.

At the YMCA, we're focused on youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. One thing we know is that today's children are the first generation in history who will have a shorter life expectancy than their parents. There are a number of factors with respect to this sad phenomenon but a major one is the lack of active play.

The socio-economic demographic we serve in the aforementioned programs, which is working poor and at or below poverty level, is reflective of the neighborhoods that surround both the park and our Central Branch YMCA. Interactive, age appropriate play structures will give active play opportunities to the most vulnerable in our city but will also serve as a regional destination for children and families.

The vision of the City's Parks and Recreation staff and volunteers for a large regional playground serving multiple ages and abilities in the central core of this vibrant urban area is long overdue and the YMCA of the Inland Northwest is solidly behind this effort.

Sincerely,

Steve Tammaro
President/Chief Executive Officer

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